

## **Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 40**

### **RESOLUTION CHAPTER 42**

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 40—Relative to the Fourth of July.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 26, 1999.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

ACR 40, Wayne. Fourth of July.

This measure would memorialize that July 4, 1999, be fully observed in this state as Independence Day.

WHEREAS, Two hundred twenty-three years ago, on June 11, 1776, the Continental Congress appointed a committee to draft a document proclaiming American sovereignty, naming Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and Robert Livingston to the committee; and

WHEREAS, The committee, with Jefferson doing by far most of the work, finished its task in 17 days and produced the Declaration of Independence, which was published on July 4, 1776; and

WHEREAS, The Declaration of Independence is a document that Pauline Maier has described as "... an organic expression of an emerging polity rooted in centuries of English law, growing out of the colonial experience and flowering in American aspirations toward life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," and that Abraham Lincoln called "the father of all moral principles"; and

WHEREAS, The fact that the Fourth of July is called Independence Day could explain why the Fourth has always been America's favorite holiday, because Independence Day is our birthday and we celebrate birthdays; and

WHEREAS, There have always been speeches on this holiday and usually a parade, and fireworks were added a long, long time ago, followed by picnics and flags and bunting, and today we have floats and costumes, food, game booths, arts and crafts, and entertainment, and games, barbecues, gunnysack races, egg races, one- and three-legged hopping contests, and bicycle contests, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, One president, Calvin Coolidge, was born on the Fourth of July, and three presidents, two of whom signed the Declaration of Independence, died on the Fourth of July: Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and James Monroe; and

WHEREAS, Outside of the fun and all the celebration, the Fourth of July is truly one of those moments when we remember the origins of our freedoms, a time when we understand our rights and

responsibilities, and a time when we pay tribute to the Declaration of Independence, the document that led to a way of life envied all over the world; and

WHEREAS, We forget just how much those who signed the document stood to lose and what great risks they took as they put their fortunes and their lives on the line, doing so in the face of those who told them that they ought to be cautious, but since they were brave, daring men, freedom and justice far outweighed caution in their minds and in their acts; and

WHEREAS, The Declaration of Independence reflects our nation's founding and heritage, as alive and vital today as it was 223 years ago; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring,* That July 4, 1999, be fully observed in this state as Independence Day; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California encourages all Californians to participate in the appropriate programs and activities and celebrations in recognition of our nation's birthday; and be it further

*Resolved,* That all Californians are urged to take a moment to remember those brave men who signed the Declaration of Independence 223 years ago; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

